



State of California  
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**Inquiry:** I am writing to you in response to a question by our Inter-Disciplinary Practice Committee regarding insertion of arterial lines by Respiratory Therapists (RTs) being within their scope of practice. We currently have RTs inserting arterial lines in our ICU and have been doing so for approximately 10 years. Our sister hospital, also has RTs inserting arterial lines. We seem to be the only hospitals in the area that do so. Could you please respond to the question of arterial line insertion by RTs being within their scope of practice?

**Response:** Regarding the insertion of arterial lines, this is not verbatim from the Respiratory Care Practice Act (RCPA) but, in the RCB's judgment, highly inferred and allowed. Further, the RCB suggests that a "respiratory care protocol", as defined in Section 3702 of the RCPA, be developed for this procedure.

Reference # 2000-C-17